July, 1992

Volume XXIII Number 6

FREE

Public Meetings to Debate Hill Fire House Alterations

By Winifred Mann

Built in 1915 by architect John Reid, Jr., rated an Architectural Landmark in 1976, and carmarked for seismic upgrading following the earthquake of 1989, the modest firehouse near the top of Potrero lhill at Wisconsin and 22nd Streets may soon be slated for a controversial alteration in the form of an addition.

Early in the seismic upgrading planning process the Fire Department, citing its need for additional interior space with a separate door to accommodate a future second engine, understandably seized this opportunity to ask that some measure of expandability be included in the plan.

Accordingly, the City's Bureau of Architecture, headed by Roger Wong with Chris Bigelow as project architect, submitted three different plans to the review process. These were unveiled in at least two public, but poorly publicized meetings held in the neighborhood, according to several participants.

One of these three plans called for demolition of the firehouse and its reconstruction in the same architectural style; re-using some of the original materials. It was quickly climinated, despite being the least costly and — by virtue of locating both doors on the 22nd Street side where there are no facing homes — most responsive to the pleas of the immediate neighbors for all possible noise reduction.

The remaining two plans made it to a necting of the full committee of the

(Continued on Page 6)

Neighbors Discuss Move by Recyclers

By Judy Baston

Nearly 20 Potrero Hill residents met June 20 at the Esprit cafeteria on Minnesota Street to discuss the planned move of the West Coast Salvage (Norcal) recycling buyback facility.

Currently the facility is on Rhode Island and 17th Streets. Deborah Rohrer, Norcal's Vice President and San Francisco Regional Manager, told The View the firm hopes to have its facility operating at 17th and Mississippi Streets instead by this coming November.

There have been several meetings between Norcal and neighborhood groups at which a number of residents' concerns have been expressed. Chief among them are traffic control, preventing the illegal dumping of non-recyclable goods, neighborhood and facility security, and noise.

Residents were forming subgroups to discuss specific issues further, and, said Rohrer, "We need to go back to our own staff and talk about issues and costs and meet again."

Rohrer also noted that the 17th and Rhode Island Street location is being eyed by the Kansei Development Co. as a possible site for housing. Although discussions about the move have lacked the disputative tone that frequently marks neighborhood issues, this matter has a subtext that reflects some of the major trends and realities of the 1990s

With the growing commitment to recycling, a new light industry is developing around the practice, an industry that in many ways seems perfectly suited to the immediate financial needs of the homeless and other street people.

It has become a common sight to see people pushing shopping carts laden with bottles up the steep streets of Potrero Hill at daybreak, hoping to beat the official recycling truck by minutes. Their daily yield nets each of them a few dollars, but some area residents have noted that from time to time shopping carts are left on the street or debris rejected by the recycling center is simply dumped on the road.

As technical matters surrounding the move are discussed during the coming months, underlying them will be the key social and economic issues represented in microcosm by this little bit of light industry on Potrero Hill.



A retirement party for longtime Hill businessman Ray Cicerone (right) will be held July 22 at 5:30 p.m., at Anchor Steam Brewery, Mariposa and De Haro Streets. The party is sponsored by the Potrero Boosters and Friends of Ray Cicerone. And a special "Thank You Jack" day is set for Jack Jacqua on July 12. See story Page 8.

Two on Hill To be Feted In July



New Public Transit Corridor To Serve Hill Residents

By E. Samira Hoye

The impending construction of the Mission Bay Project has prompted the City Public Utilities Commission and MUNI, to launch a study of the existing transportation system throughout the area, and ways in which it can improve, through expansion and/or replacement.

At a June 10 meeting hosted by several neighborhood organizations, and held at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, members of the community had a chance to hear some of the modifications currently being proposed, and to make recommendations of their own.

Peter Straus, Director of Muni Service Planning, introduced the "Bayshore Corridor Transit Study," which is being paid for with the half cent transit tax funds passed by voters in 1989. The study is expected to take between nine and twelve months, and is designed to enhance services for the eastern neighborhoods of San Francisco. These neighborhoods include Potrero Ilill, Visitacion Valley, Bay View and Hunters Point, and the area that is under examination stretches from the area as far North as Market Street, South to the San Francisco/San Mateo county line

Under present conditions, it was agreed, buses are slow and infrequent, and the number of bus routes is limited. The "15 Third Street" and the "9 San Bruno" are the only buses that provide access to San Mateo County.

One resident noted that the residents from the Bay View/Hunters Point area have been waiting for many years for an improved transportation system that would give the area access to downtown San Francisco, which would inevitably be economically advantageous to the eastern neighborhoods.

Thomas Elzey, of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, presented several of the scenarios presently under consideration, which he stressed, are still in the very early planning stages. No one proposal automatically cancels out another, he noted, emphasizing that proposed improvements can be mixed and matched to best benefit, all of the parties involved. Here are some of the major proposals being considered:

* A Third Street Motor Coach with limited "15 Third Street" service;

(Continued on Page 4)



Memories
of
Joe
Passen
*
See Page 5



IN OUR VIEW

Maritime Heritage

On July 8, the San Francisco Port Commission will hear a resolution to re-name China Basin Street to Terry A. Francois Boulevard. This resolution has already been passed by the Board of Supervisors and adopted by Mayor Frank Jordan.

This proposed name change strikes us as an unnecessary and unwelcome comment on the status of our valuable maritime heritage. For years this city has simply been shucking off reminders of its sailing history — and it's time to call a halt.

Time and again the histories of old San Francisco neighborhoods have been buried as redevelopment procedures bulldoze structures into oblivion and redesign sections of the city into totally new areas — dismissing all reflections of who and what came before in helping to formulate the character of the city.

And for this character to thrive, in economic as well as human terms, there must be a thoughtful and comprehensive sense of balance. We remind the Board of Supervisors and the Port Commission that purging the name China Basin certainly eliminates the historical reason that name was given to the area just below Potrero Ilill. Is it their intent to eliminate as well any sense of continuity between that history and the currently fragile maritime industry tied to it?

China Basın's history can be traced on early maps to the 1800s, when exotic items from Asia were brought into San Francisco's harbor on colorful China Clipper sailing vessels of the Pacific Mail line.

While in public service in San Francisco, Francois made one of his inajor commitments the struggle for integrated and affordable housing. Since the city is involved in the process of developing the Mission Bay area into new homes and commercial ventures, we believe they should seriously consider honoring Francois by naming one of the first major streets in that area for him. We think that would be a fitting tribute.

Citizens wishing to voice an opinion on this matter may attend the Port Commission licaring Wednesday, July 8 at 4 p.m. in Suite 3100 of the Ferry Building, or may call Frank Palumbo at the Port, telephone 247-0559, to register their opinion.

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Masthcad design by

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HOW THE HILL VOTED.

	Potrero Hill %	San Francisco	% Calif. 9		
U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi	(was unoppose	(was unopposed in Demo slate)			
U.S. SENATOR (Short Term)					
Dianne Peinstein Gray Davis	76.1 17.6	70 21	58 33		
Joc M. Alioto, Jr.	4.2	6	5 5		
David Kearns	2.1	2	5		
U.S. SENATOR (Long Term)					
Barbara Boxer	73.7	54	44		
Leo McCarthy	17.2	29	31		
Mcl Levine	8.2	15	22		
Charles Greene	.9	1	4		
STATE SENATOR					
Milton Marks	84.0	18	-		
Joseph Freitas, Jr.	16.0	19	-		
STATE ASSEMBLY - 13th Distric	t				
Willie L. Brown, Jr.	80.0	76	_		
Ellis Keyes	20.0	24	-		
JUDGE, MUNICIPAL COURT #5					
Ellen Chaitin	62.0	58	_		
Janet Forsythe	38.0	41.9	_		
JUDGE, MUNICIPAL COURT #6					
DONNA LITTLE	50.2	59.9	-		
Barry Melton	49.7	40.1	-		
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTE	D.				
13TH DISTRICT	E.				
Carole Migden	9.7	9			
Sue Bierman	7.2	6			
Maria Martinez	6.0	6			
Matthew Rothschild	5.8	5			
Leslie Rachel Katz	5 .7	6			
Richard Allman	5.4	6			
Natalie Berg	5.1	6			
Lulu Carter	4.9	5			
Mary Johnson Peter Gabel	4.6	4			
Ronald Colthirst	4.6	5			
Greg Day	4.6	3			
Greg Day	4.4	5			
STATE PROPOSITIONS	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N		
152 - School Facilities Bond Act	73/27	67/33	53/47		
153 - Higher Education Facilities	73/27	66/34	51/49		
Bond		*****	01,10		
154 - Property Tax Postponement	55/45	51/49	40/60		
CITY PROPOSITIONS					
A - Golden Gate Park Bonds	75/25	66/34			
B - Civic Center Plaza Bonds	47/53	41/59			
C - Civic Center Garage Bonds	39/61	35/65			
D - Civic Center Heating System Bonds	44/56	38/62			
E - Infrastructure Fund	42/58	40/60			
F - County Clerk	65/35	58/42			
G - Chief Zoo Veterinarian	62/38	50/50			
H - Inventory Control	59/41	43/57			
l - Divide the State?	45/55	33/67			
J - S.F. in No. California?	70/30	60/40			

* Democratic candidates only





Editor:

In sharing the sadness of the family, people on "the Hill", and elsewhere, 1 showed a co-worker the section by Jerry Roberts in the S.F. Chronicle, 6/13/92, about Joe Passen and told her he was my uncle.

Her response summed him up quite well. She said, "He is someone that really made a difference!"

He is missed already. Good-bye, Uncle Joe. 1 Love You!

Julie Elkind Caboara Manhattan Beach

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Have The Potrero View Delivered to You!

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LIBRARY NEWS POTRERO BRANCH 1616 20th St. 285-3022

Closed Monday

Tuesday 1 - 6 pm Wednesday 1 - 8 pm Thurs., Fri., & Sat. 1 - 6 pm



The Potrero Branch of the San Francisco Public Library is a pleasant, clean, well-lighted place. Located on 20th Street at the corner of Connecticut, the library offers a spectacular view of the San Francisco downtown skyline a view unsurpassed by any other in the

Library hours remain the same as they have been for some time. The library is open five days a week: Tuesday 1-6 p.m.; Wednesday 1-8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 1-6 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Programs are Tuesday, 7 p.m.: family story time with films every third Wednesday; every Thursday, 1:30 p.m., lapsit.

A collection that has been getting a lot of patron attention lately is our phono discs collection, composed mainly of LPs from the eighties back to the forties. The advent of compact discs and lasers rendered these vinyls the dinosaurs of the industry.

However, vinyls have a lot of diehard fans - people who are not enamoured of the new technology. They tell us that despite the cleaner, crisper sound of CDs, the old vinyls produce the truest, most authentic reproduction

in certain music genres, notably jazz, and rhythm and blues - both voice and instrumental.

The summer reading program has begun. The theme this year is "Library

MUNI - BART Tix at NABE

MUNI and BART lickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Sl., Mondays Ihrough Fridays, during office hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

> Senior Muni \$4.50 Youth Muni \$5.00 Senior BART \$1.60

For more information - caii 826-8080

Kids Have Tons of Fun." The first week produced a record number of kids who signed up and carried home an armload of books to read and enjoy!

-Darcus Thomas Librarian

GETTING INVOLVED

THE GARDEN CLUB will hold its pot luck and plant swap the third Wednesday of the month, July 15, at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St., in the Game Room. Starts at 6:30 p.m.

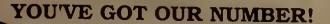
THE POTRERO LEAGUE OP ACTIVE NEIGHBORS (PLAN) will meet Wednesday, July 22, at 7:30 p.m., at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. An architect will be there to discuss a planned residential two-tier development, and there will be a report on the NorCal/West Coast Salvage (recycling) relocation from Rhode Island and 17th to Mississippi and 17th Streets.

THE POTRERO HILL BOOSTERS hold their meeting the last Tuesday of the month, July 28, upstairs at the neighborhood Public Library at 1616 - 20th St. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Be there at 7:00 for a half hour of socializing.

THE POTRERO HILL DEMOCRATIC CLUB will hold its meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, July 9, at 7 p.m. It will be held at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro.

TREE PLANTING. Congratulations! The response was such an overwhelming success over 180 trees ordered! — that two planting dates have been scheduled. For those west of Arkansas St., the planting date is set for Saturday, July 18. Volunteers for planting will meet at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 18, at 683 Wisconsin. For info. call Curt Hayes, 285-6202; Dick Reynolds, 285-6292; or Lynne Rodrigues, 282-8820. For the west of Arkansas St. (or for any people living on the west of Arkansas St. (or for any people living on the west of Arkansas St. (or for any people living on the west of Arkansas St. (or for any people living on the west of Arkansas St. (or for any people living on the west of Arkansas St. (or for any people living on the west of the whold everyone east of Arkansas St. (or for any new people living on the west side who'd like to join in) the planting date will be August 15. It's still possible to join in — and a special grant means the trees are free (normally they cost around \$140). Call Friends of the Urban Forest, 543-5000, for information.

RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTHEAST SECTOR - (ROSES) - is an organization that facilitates interaction between the police and the community. It will be holding its meeting Thursday, August 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Esprit Corporate Office, 900 Minnesota. A guest speaker is expected.



Make a note -the View's phone number is:

824-7516

The View.

SETTLEMENT NEAR IN RENT STRIKE: The year old rent strike at Potrero Public Housing seemed near an end with compromise solutions, including "reduction in rent as well as special repair work" contributing to the conclusion. One immediate result of the agreement was the cancellation of a court hearing sought by the S.F. Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation (SFNLAF) on the strikers behalf. Public Housing Tenants Association President (PHTA) Paulette Faison expressed pleasure at the turn of events and found the apparent success of the strike,"hard to believe." Housing Authority spokespersons declined to comment on the settlement.

33 YEARS OP TEACHING HONORED: Edwin Waters, for the last ten years a teacher at the Hill's Daniel Webster School, capped his 33-year career June 10 when a mural executed by his third and fourth grade students was unveiled in the school's multipurpose room. The mural features familiar city sites such as Mission Dolores, Ferry Building and the Flower Conservatory in Golden Gate Park. The VIEWs page one photo shows Waters beaming at ten of his fledgling muralists at the unveiling, which was attended by students, faculty, parents, school district representatives and community leaders.

"HILL DOCKERS RECALL 'BLOODY THURSDAY' ":

That was the headline over a story recounting the events of mid-1934, which culminated with the death of waterfront strikers and the establishment of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU). The VIEW talked with three Potrero Hill longshoreman to get their views on the significance of July 5, 1934 (Bloody Thursday) in the history of the maritime labor movement. Germain Bulcke, 80 years old ten years ago and a veteran of the 1934 strike, described conditions before the ILWU victory. Walter Pudoff, a recent retiree in 1982, recalled as a child watching the action on the waterfront. Peter Loskutoff, in 1982 still an active docker, was only three years old in 1934 but remembered brothers and uncles describing the events. For many years after, on all the waterfronts of the Pacific Coast, longshoremen refused to work on Bloody Thursday. Even now, ceremonies are held every July 5 at Steuart and Mission Streets where the strikers were killed.

HILL STUDENT WINS WRITING AWARD: A grim picture of Potrero Hill in the year 2000 won runner-up honors for Hill teenager Mark Walsh in a city-wide essay contest. "Fragmentation, Big Brother watching everywhere, a sudden fuel drain - these are some of the visions Walsh's essay projected," said the VIEW story. The essay was printed in its entirety in the July issue. Walsh's prize — \$50 and a pair of Giants

POTRERO HILL AT URBAN FAIR: Moscone Center was the site of the first San Francisco County Fair and Exposition June 25-27, 1982, and Potrero Hill participated with a booth extolling the highlights of the neighborhood. "This is Potrero Hill," a tabloid paper was distributed and 10,000 copies were given away.

NEW TREES POR SHOWPLACE SQUARE: Some 60 trees were planted around the Showplace Square complex in late June and were to be dedicated at ceremonies July 9. An additional 65 trees were to be planted that month with the planting eventually to total 500. Now, about that stupid griffin perched in the middle of the roundabout ...?

THIS AND THAT: A retrospective of work by the late Hill artist Giacomo Patri went on display at the Museo Italo ... The Roxie Theater at 3137 - 16th St. was resuscitated at the last moment to continue presenting films of unusual interest not usually seen at other movie houses ... 1982 being the centennial of Irish author James Joyce, the Irish community sponsored a "community read-in "of his great novel "Ulysses." Potrero Hill's Neighborhood House was one of the 15 venues in the city ... The Potrero View Goats of the Media Softball League won their division pennant but fell in the semifinals for the league crown ... From the Want Ads — "For Rent. My 1 bedroom Potrero Hill apt... \$100."

- Vas Arnautoff

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street • San Francisco, California • (415) 826-8080 Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

Youth Council Meetings Giris Club Meetings Omega Boys Club Meetings

Wed., 6 p.m.
Non., 5-7 p.m.
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
Every Tues., 7:30 p.m.
Tues., 5-7 p.m.

Study Hall Juvenile Diversion

Tutorlal Program

Job Referrai Aicohoi Anonymous Cocaine Anonymous

- Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Sun/Mon/Thurs, 8:30 p.m. - Sat., 6-7 p.m.

Cocaine Anonymous - Sat., 6-7 p.m.

Sociai Development Center: For developmentally disabled adults.

Basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer and health education, field trips, sensorimotor development, work training, leisure time use, group and individual counseling.

Senior Citizens Program: Hot lunches every weekday (at small cost). Activities include - bingo games, information and referral, counseling, social hour, games and recreation.

Classes: Photography, Arts & Crafts.

Potrero Hill Neighborhood Theatre (cost, \$5-7 per performance).

Facilities:

Meeting spaces avallable for use by community groups Auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, workshops and receptions Gymnasium and recreationai space

Photographic workshop Builetin board with job and events ilstings

Mini-park Chiid Development Center (for pre-school chiidren)

All services and activities FREE • Member, United Way of the Bay Area

New Public Transit Corridor To Serve Hill Residents

(Continued from Page 1)

- * A San Bruno trolley coach, to replace present standing "9 San Bruno" buses.
- * A Third Street trolley coach, to replace local standing buses, which are quieter, better on hills, cost less to run, and cause less pollution in an already environmentally challenged area.
- * A Third Street "Light Rail" system, such as the J-Church, which would originate at the Embarcadero and Market Streets, and would extend over the Lefty O'Doul bridge to the city line. This could veer off and stop at Candlestick Park, or have a separate branch leading off to Candlestick. This light rail proposal met with the most approval.
- * A Third Street "Light Rail" system to begin at the Embarcadero/ Market Street area, which would

join up with Cal-Train's track alignment at 4th and Townsend Streets, stopping at more stations than Cal-Train does now, running along Highway 280 and breaking off at Army Street.

- * A "Heavy Rail" system like B.A.R.T.; such a system would very likely require Federal money, which would entail many more formal steps, and would also mean less freedom to make decisions based on local priorities.
- * A "Heavy Rail" system that would assume the eventual relocation of Cal-Train's origin at Embarcadero/ Market, and which would be joined to the Cal-Train rail system.

This meeting was only the first of many. As the Bayshore Corridor Transit Study continues and as alternatives are refined, public input will play a role in determining what system will ultimately be put in place, how much it will cost, who will ride it, and where it will go.

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

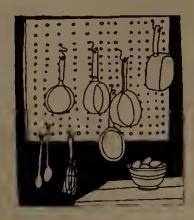
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REGISTER TO VOTE

If you have recently moved into the neighborhood or have not voted since 1990 you need to register again.

► Call (415) 641-9332 and leave a message, and a club volunteer will deliver a voter's Registration packet to your door.

WHY VOTER with a Presidential election that we believe will be the closest in recent California history, two U.S. Senate Laces, election for San Francisco Board of Supervisors and School Board as well as a punitive - so called welfare reform ballot measures on the November Ballot. YOUR VOTE IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

~REGISTER & VOTE DEMOCRAT~ Potrero Hill Democratic Club Post Office Box 410716 San Francisco, CA 94141-0716

MUSING Loud

Can't walk by that "This-Side-Up" house on Connecticut between 19th and 20th without remembering a waterfront incident. Years ago, before containerization, every crate, box, sack was handled piece by piece onto and off ships. Most boxes had "This Side Up" imprinted on them with an arrow indicating the preferred upright stance. We longshoremen, never too receptive to admonitions of any sort, paid little attention to the arrows. Then, one day, a crate came down to us in the hold of a ship with the ubiquitous arrow, but instead of "This Side Up" a peremptory "Mandatory Shipping Attitude." Now, that one got our attention and respect.

The house on Connecticut Street? It's the pink one on the east side of the street. Two stories. A touch of inadvertant whimsey.

But there's advertant whimsey all over the Hill. How about that cow in the front yard further down Connecticut Street. Alright, so it's not real, but it is almost full size and placid as any real Bessie. Doesn't require any cleaning up after, either ... Or how about that roof on 19th Street between Kansas and Rhode Island — roofing tile used as mosaic to depict other roofs ... Or the back yard of that house on Pennsylvania Street just south of 20th — a steep slope chock-a-block with whirlygigs, ceramic figures, windmills, dolls and more. Alas, this one isn't visible from 20th Street anymore since a new fence went up. Talk about whimsey ...

"Whimsey ... whimsey ..." one of those words that begins to sound funny when repeated. Like "glimpse." Try that one a few times on your brain pan — glimpse, glimpse, glimpse ...

Things you're glad you didn't know at the time (and aren't sure you wanted to know even now): That a "thrill" activity of your sons when they were kids, was strolling thru the railroad tunnel that used to run under Potrero Hill at 18th and Arkansas Streets, and flattening themselves against the wall if a train came through. Or climbing up the water tank.

- Vas Arnautoff



FUNDRAISER

ENOLA D. MAXWELL
FOR SAN FRANCISCO
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Petition Signing
PARTY

Goat Hill Pizza
300 Connecticut Street
Saturday, July 25, 1992

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. \$10.00 per person Education is the Keyl

His Life Was "About Making a Difference"

JOE PASSEN - A 'ONE-OF-A-KIND' GUY

Joe Passen — one of a kind — died of cancer June 6, three days after his 79th birthday.

Truly a man for all seasons, his interests and activities ranged from national and world politics to trade unionism, bird watching, opera and theatre.

He approached all of his interests throughout his lifetime with verve and conviction. Once decided on an issue or politician — whether in support or opposition — Passen could not be swayed. Long-time friends characterized him as "a man of great integrity," and "the most honest person I have ever known."

His role as a fighter for causes began early as a member of the large Passen family of Chicago. After the family moved to Los Angeles in the late 1920s, Passen was a fleet high school halfback and had a few bit roles after the silent movies added sound.

He first gravitated to politics by helping form the West Los Angeles Young Democratic Club and, in later years, was active in the labor movement in San Francisco as a member of the International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Unjon Ship Clerks Local 34; Teamsters Local 35; Taxi Drivers Local 265; and the Screen Extras Guild. He was very proud of his membership in the ILWU's Pensioners group.

Although fiercely dedicated to world peace, he served in the Philippines during



Passen with granddaughter Natalie on her second birthday May 23.

World War II, making it his personal war against fascism. He soldiered impressively, earning the Bronze Star medal.

Passen always proudly proclaimed his unionism by being one of the few comrades still to wear the traditional waterfront workers' white cap, emblematic of the crucial San Francisco 1934 General Strike.

Proud throughout his adult life to call himself a left-winger, he was impassioned and stubborn about his principles, and had a deep compassion for the downtrodden. On regular Market Street strolls, he would walk directly to a homeless Dickensian woman huddled wretchedly alongside a rag-and-bag laden shopping eart, hand her a bill or coins and say, "Good luck, dear."

Unarguably, he was a charmer. While visiting France with wife Ruth this past May, Passen's ego was buoyed by a fashionable young Parisienne whom he had complimented for her stylishness, and especially her au courant hose. She turned to Ruth and said, "You have a sexy husband."

Passen's marriage to Ruth Elkind in 1947 was characterized in the San Francisco Chronicle's Question Man column years later. When asked by the reporter which duo he considered to be the ideal married couple, longtime friend Jerry Corrigan without hesitating answered "Ruth and Joe Passen."

Passen had a wide span of friends, the closest of whom make a ritualistic weekly four-mile walk near the Golden Gate Bridge. Known as the Fort Point Gang, the group is made up of lifelong comrades like Bill Bailey and other veterans of the labor movement, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the waterfront.

The spirit imbued in others by Passen was conveyed in a letter for Joe's June 3 birthday from nephew Steve Passin in Philadelphia: "Your life has been about making a difference. I learned about unions and the labor movement from you. I learned about community from you—how to participate in it, the political power of it and how one voice can change things."

Family was always the cornerstone of Passen's community. Enormously pleased when son Marc became a member of the Bay Area Touring Side (BATS) rugby team, Joe became an enthusiastic fan. This led to a role as Touch Judge during the BATS' competition in rugby tournaments for several years.



Passen and fellow ILWU pensioner Bill Bailey, who served as honor guards at the 1991 Bloody Thursday ceremonies, stand with California AFL-ClO Secretary Treasurer Jack Henning (left).

Ruth Possen photos

Proud parents Ruth and Joe "kvelled" at the marriage of Marc to Dianne Downey in 1989 as longtime friend and then-Mayor Art Agnos officiated. Thereafter came granddaughter Natalie Ruth who, on her second birthday, enchanted Passen by calling him "Poppa Joe."

And as Marc's personna blossomed, the Passens were particularly gratified to see how much of Joe's political and humanistic zeal had rubbed off.

Although Passen's perspective was global, he was strongly devoted to his Potrero Hill neighborhood where he was a perpetual volunteer and former Board member of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, and as staff member of the Potrero View, for many years typing most of the newspaper's articles, as well as distributing The View to Civic Center offices.



To the very end Passen could not stay detached from the world and expressed strong feelings about the Presidential campaign. One of his final questions in this political year was, "llow can you vote for Clinton?"

- Charles Elkind

A Celebration of Joe's life
will take place
Saturday, July 18
from 2 - 5 p.m. at the
Potrero Hill
Neighborhood House,
953 De Haro Street,
San Francisco.





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Public Meetings to Debate Hill Fire House Alterations

(Continued from Page 1)

Landmarks Prescription Advisory Board, with a strong sub-committee recommendation for Plan B (see drawing).

Although open to the public, this meeting was sparsely attended: three people residing directly across the street — pleading for better noise control — and two from the Potrcro Boosters & Merchants Assn., favoring the plan

It turns out, however, that Landmarks Preservation has no jurisdiction over noise pollution, or visual clutter either, for that matter. It is strictly limited to matters of preserving the original exterior. In any case, Plan B was unanimously approved by the full Board.

This plan proposes constructing that somewhat squashed-looking building (actually an attached extension) on the existing open space between the fire-liouse and the monumental condo building on the right, which can be seen in view studies to dwarf its downhill neighbors. With this addition, the three bulky shapes

of similar height form a phalanx, a solid wall of architectural incongruities, unrelieved even by the 25 foot wide patch of blue sky presently affording the eye some respite.

As for the next step in the process; according to Debra Lehane of the Arts Commission's Civic Design Committee, that body will discuss the project in three sessions. The first, titled "Concept, History and Review" will take place on Monday, July 13, at 3 p.m., at 25 Van Ness, basement Rm. 70. The public, states Lehane, is emphatically invited to attend.

The following two meetings are to be announced, usually held "about a month apart." The second will be on "Colors and Materials," the third, "Final Working Drawings."

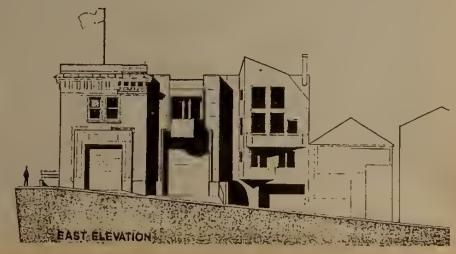
About the noise problem? Well, no; the Arts Commission has no influence there, either. But Lehane strongly suggests you contact Fire Chief Fred Postel personally with your comments and suggestions. If you ean't reach him, Assistant Chief Jim Lynch may be helpful

BEFORE...



The firehouse at present as seen from Wisconsin St., showing the lot next door now occupied by a low building at the rear, with only a fence visible from the street. Below is the view with the proposed addition.

... AND AFTER ?..



From the same perspective, the building as it would appear with the proposed addition.

Bay Area Forums to Discuss Issues Raised by Trial Verdict in King Case

Open Forum, A School of Collective Learning, is kicking off a series of community Forums, "Injustice in Our Communities," to discuss issues related to the verdict in the Rodney King beating trial and its aftermath. The forums, to be held in various communities throughout the Bay Area, are being cosponsored by Open Forum and local community groups to provide a forum for community voices, develop access to media, stimulate discussion, and focus actions.

Each forum will consist of a week of evening discussion groups to address the topics of "Repression and the Justice System," "Economic Inequality and Iluman Needs," "Media, Whose Voice?," "Demanding Respect and Accepting Diversity," and "Directing our Anger, Finding Solutions." Following panel presentations on the topics, sessions will be open for discussion among participants.

The first two forums in the series will be held at the Bayview Opera House, 4705 Third Street, San Francisco, from July 6 through 10, and the Local 28 union hall, 548 20th Street, Oakland from July 20 through July 24. Other locations will be announced.

All discussions will begin at 7 p.m. and will continue until 9:30 p.m. Donations will be requested, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Child care will be available.

For more information call Open Forum at 415-552-2993.

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We're looking for a quiet, single renter for a one-bedroom apartment (circa 1912) on a secluded street on Potrero Hill. Full kitchen with dishwasher and dutch door. Parking, electricity, gas, water and trash included. \$600 per month with one year lease. First, last and security deposit required. No pets or smokers, please. Call Annie or Richard at (415) 282-6363 8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.





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On Sunday, July 19, thousands will gather in Golden Gate Park to participate in Northern California's largest and most successful AIDS fundraising event — the sixth annual AIDS Walk San Francisco. Sign-in for the event is 9 a.m. at Sharon Meadow. An opening ceremony is scheduled for 9:30 and the walk begins at 10. Participants raise money by asking friends, family members, co-workers to sponsor them for each kilometer they will walk

Friends of the Urban Forest will conduct the first of two planning meetings for Potrero Hill residents who would like trees planted in front of their homes or businesses. The free planting project will be explained at the Neighborhood llouse (Nabe), 953 DeHaro St. on July 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. and again (same time, same place) on July 29. The first planting date, July 18, is filled and a second planting, for residents and businesses between 16th and 22nd, Connecticut and 3rd Streets is planned for August 15.

UCSF's Women's Resource Center offers free lectures and low-cost workshops of particular interest to women. July lectures, from noon to 1 p.m. will focus on "Mothers of East Los Angeles" (July 7) and "Talking Back to Sexual Pressure" (July 23). Workshops on plumbing and electrical home repair are scheduled for July 11 and 18. Pre-registration is required for the workshops. Phone 476-5222 for details.

New Art Connections "Summerfest 1992" presents storyteller Lee Kerwin in Heaven, Hell and Other Places in the Midwest", directed by David Rosenthal, July 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 - 17th St. Tickets \$10. Call 863-9834 for reservations.

If you like to work outdoors and get hands-on experience in habitat restoration, urban gardening, tree planting, creek restoration, wild animal care, or recycling, Planet Drum can tell you whom to contact. Ask for Linzy at 285-6556.

"Land," billed as an "eco-comedy in fifty one-minute scenes," opens in the Phil Deal Performance Gallery at Project Artaud, 499 Alabama St. July 9 and runs through July 25. The Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. and reservations are recommended, (510) 526-7451. Written and directed by Richard Talavera, "Land" explores the slow decay of a family relationship as dreams of a peaceful, back-to-nature existence fall apart.

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"The Hours and Times", Christopher Munch's account of the friendship between singer John Lennon and the Beatles' producer Brian Epstein begins its exclusive West Coast premiere engagement July 24 at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 - 16th St. It will be preceded by "Resonance" a short film by Stephen Cummins.

The 12th Annual Jewish Film Festival opens July 23 and continues through July 30 at the Castro Theater then moves to Berkeley's U.C. Theater August 1-6. Some 31 films from 12 countries will be featured and some will focus on Sephardic Jews, who were forced to convert or leave Spain in 1492. These will look at topics as wide ranging as the secret Crypts - Jews of Portugal ("The Last Marranos") resistance to the Inquisition in Colonial Mexico ("The Holy Office") and Sephardic culture as seen by women from such countries as Turkey, Egypt and Iraq. More information at (510) 548-

Free July offerings at the Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. include: "Good Sex," readings by Julia Hutton from her book (July 7); Ruben Martinez reading from his new book, "The Other Side" (July 13); Susie Bright reading from her new collection of essays, "Susie Bright's Sexual Reality" (July 14): Alice Walker reading from her new novel, "Possessing the Secret of Joy" (July 17). All events are at 7:30 p.m.

UCSF's free "Brown Bag" lectures in July include: "Wine and Health" (July 8); "Shoot Out at the Wall Street Corral" (a humorous look at the stock market, July 15); "Carpal Tunnel Syndrome" (July 22); and "Managing Change successfully" (July 29). All lectures are presented at noon in Room 300 at 513 Parnassus Ave.

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"Selections from 1991," the second annual juried exhibition of art work by participants in last year's San Francisco Open Studios continues through July 11 at the Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan St. The group show includes three pieces by each of 20 city artists in a variety of media. The exhibition provides an excellent preview of the type of work that can be seen at this year's Open Studios to be held three weekends beginning October 31. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

Special forums for the visually impaired are being offered by the Department of Ophthalmology, U.C.S.F. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and third Saturday each month at 400 Parnassus Ave. The free forums are designed to help the visually impaired cope with the problems that arise in day-to-day living and are open to friends and family as well. Information at 626-5313.

The Ramp restaurant at 855 China Basin St. (at the end of Mariposa Street) offers afternoon and evening music on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through July Featuring such groups as M.M.Q., Kimbo's 90, Combo Nation and Candela and performers Joe Ellis, Madeline Eastman and Lisa Silva, the programs are at 3:30, 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. Phone 621-2378 for specific times and dates.

The Mission YMCA will hold its 9th Annual Wine Festival Sunday, July 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. at 4080 Mission St. Tickets are \$10 and include wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres donated by local restaurants. Proceeds will enable lowincome youths and seniors to participate in "Y" activities.

The office of Substance Abuse Master Plan will hold a focus group meeting on drug and alcohol problems on Potrero Ilill at the Neighborhood House. For more information, and if you would like to attend, please call Jenny White at 255-3520.

Potrero Hill's American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine at 455 Arkansas St. has contracted with the S.F. Department of Public Health to provide acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine services for city residents with symptomatic HIV disease who are medically underinsured. The clinic program may be the first such publicly funded in the nation. For information about the clinic or to be placed on the waiting list for services call 282-9603.

Grieving pet owners can get free help through a Pet Loss Support Group meeting at the San Francisco SPCA, 2500 - 16th St. on July 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. Dog and cat behavior problems are dealt with in two other SPCA programs. For more information call Lynn Spivak at 554-3000.

Children ages 6-10 can learn about the Native American tradition of the Medicine Wheel through art, song, dance and outdoor activities at the Randall Museum. The workshop meets four Wednesdays, July 8-29, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. with a final celebration Saturday, Aug. I from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fee: \$23. Phone

"Public Art: Why Not?" will be the subject discussed at the Capp Street Project on July 25 from 9 to 4 p.m. Billed as a "career development workshop" the event will be held at the Project's site, 270 - 14th St. There will be a morning and an afternoon session with a \$5 donation suggested for each. Advance reservations are suggested. Call 626-7747.

"Help!!!" cries Vicki Skinner who is attempting to find families who are willing to host Japanese and French students from three weeks to a month this summer. Japanese students are aged 18-22 and will be here with Worldwide Impressive Significant Hospitality (WISII). French students (ages 12-18) will be here with S.L.S. World Camp. The goal is to improve students' knowledge of the English language and culture by sharing in the every day life and activities of the American host family. Phone 243-4157, or fax 512-1665, or call 772-8707 (voice mail).

The July meeting of the S.F. Chapter of the Older Women's League begins with a social hour at 10 a.m., July 25 at 601 Dolores St. (at 19th). Subject of the program is "Building an Effective Relationship with Your Doctor. Phone

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Omega "Big Brother" Jack Jacqua" to be Honored July 12

Jack Jacqua is the kind of guy who doesn't know the meaning of the word "hopeless." Which is why as the cofounder of the Omega Boys Club he's been instrumental in turning around the lives of hundreds of kids who might otherwise have gone the way of crime and prison.

Five years ago he founded the Omegas with Joe Marshall and 15 teenagers from the Potrero Hill Middle School. Since then the organization has mushroomed to more than 500 kids from all over the City. It operates with a budget of more than half a million dollars. Many kids who had been in juvenile detention centers are now in college, and the Omega Boys Club is paying their tuition.

To show its appreciation, the Potrero IIill Neighborhood House Board of Directors is slating a reception to honor Jacqua and his efforts on behalf of youth. The reception is free and it will offer an opportunity for the community to come and say, "Thank you, Jack."

The Neighborhood llouse has served as headquarters for the Omega Boys Club

almost since its inception, so Jacqua spends a lot of time there — whenever he's not at detention centers, jails, juvenile homes, courthouses — wherever there are kids that could benefit from his counseling and assistance.

Shaggy and casual, with the look of an aging hippie, Jacqua has earned the respect of lawyers, judges, probation officers, and, most important to him, of the kids he helps. "He's like a father that wasn't there for me." said 19-year-old Debaba Harrison. And William Johnson, 17, added, "Jack has been my mentor. Ile's been like a big brother. He touches down with my spirituality. I get along with him more than my own family. Everyone likes him."

Gayle Justice of the Neighborhood House staff pointed out that Jacqua "never really gives up on these kids. The parents might give up, society gives up. He doesn't. The message he gets across—there is a way out and you have to accept it and do it yourself."

Jacqua, 51, had worked as a counselor at the Potrero Hill Middle School for 18 years, and was deeply concerned that the school system was "not giving black males the opportunity to empower themselves." He and Marshall "decided to do something," he recalled, to "start an extended family." They invited 30 to their first meeting.

"Only 23 showed up and we hit them hard," he remembered. "This was going to be a support group — not about fun. It was serious. Life and death. Academic. Teaching history the way it wasn't taught. No basketball. This was about saving lives. We said if you can't handle it, don't come to the next meeting. But 15 came back." Since then it has attracted kids from all over the city spreading word-of-mouth.

With obvious pride, Jacqua added, "We're the only people in the City, maybe in the whole country, doing anything like this. We're real. We don't just talk. We do it. We come from the heart and get respect. We tell them they can do it. They can do anything anyone else can do. They've probably never heard that in their life. We go to jails and send kids to college. We have 104 people in college now, and two-thirds of our budget goes to support them. The rest of the money goes to youth in group homes, state prisons, kids who come out of prison, who need to get back on their foet."

Girls have been joining the Omega Club, and Jacqua's also been involved in outreach to the Samoan community. But Jacqua says his work is still primarily with African-American males, "because they're getting really destroyed by the system."

Jacqua regards the club as a big extended family, with all that that entails, and the kids learn they can count on him. Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director of the Neighborhood House, pointed out. "He'll take them downtown and buy shoes for the little ones. He buys clothes and food. Ile's with the kids in good times and in bad times, working with them, with their parents, working right there with them." He's out by 8:00 every morning visiting with kids, courts, families, attending meetings, and he usually doesn't get home again until after 11:00 at night.

Something of an iconoclast in the world of "do-gooders," Jacqua admitted that "most politicians don't trust us, we're too independent." Almost all the funding for the Club comes from private donations, and he noted, "some of our biggest supporters are right wing politically — it's because we believe in disciplined love, bootstraps, empowerment. We don't believe in patronization. We teach that you have to make decisions for yourself, you have to stop feeling sorry for yourself, and take each day at a time."

Everyone is welcome to come and join in saying "Thank you, Jack." The reception in his honor will take place Sunday, July 12 at 3 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro. A program of "thank-yous" to Jack will be presented by young people. The program is free and a light buffet will be served.

YOUR SERVE



Free tennis lessons are available for kids at the Potrero Hill Recreation Center, Monday through Priday, 3 - 5 p.m. Instructor Barbara Lewis, of the Youth Tennis Foundation, above, illustrates an overhand serve. The Rec Center is located on Arkansas at Madera Streets.

Jon Greenberg photo

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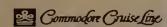
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"The Giving" Explores Guilt In Dealing With Homeless

By Julia Jaurigui

If you experience pangs of guilt, anxicty, and confusion when you ignore a homeless person's request for spare change, your feelings pale in comparison to those of Jeremiah Pollock, the modern day Robin Ilood of Eames Demetrios' "The Giving," a low budget and highly stylized film about homelessness, which has an exclusive one day run at the Roxie Theatre, 3611 - 16th Street, on Monday,

Demetrios, raised in San Francisco and currently living in Los Angeles, has created an exquisitely visual, surreal, and fascinating portrait of privilege, wealth, and poverty by focusing on what indisputably is one of the more serious social and political issues facing Americans in the 1990s, the rapidly increasing numbers of homeless men, women and children who struggle to eke out an existence in the inner cities.

"The Giving," shot on the streets of Skid Row in Los Angeles, is a wildly unique and gritty work of fiction, which combines elements of documentary and experimental film to create a compelling look at the myriad and complex issues that face both the "haves" and "have nots" of contemporary America.

While attending a charity dinner, Jeremiah Pollock, a successful young bank executive and computer whiz kid, donates \$10,000 to a homeless charity. Later that evening, he drives off and ignores the pleas for help by Gregor, the leader of a homeless group — whose homeless encampment is blasted off the sidewalks by merchants with water hoses.

Pollack then begins to question his motives for giving money to charity. In a particularly poetic and inspired monologue, the young man, consumed with guilt, soulfully declares to the audience that he wants "to be blameless for the problems of the world."

Pollock attempts to ease his guilt by working in a Skid Row soup kitchen, and he begins to recognize the frivolity, monotony, and spiritual emptiness that marks his life. In a rather amusing and telling scene about male privilege and power, Pollock rejects his co-worker's

invitation to fly to the midwest for a "safe sex safari," sponsored by a travel agency that specializes in meeting the unusual sexual needs of young, urban, professional, heterosexual men.

Through his work at the Cabrio Mission, Pollock develops a fast and easy friendship with Tiffany, a bright and imaginative homeless girl, energetically portrayed by Satya Cyprian. But he is routinely rebuked by Gregor, the proud yet defiant African-American leader of n homeless group who yearns to build a farm downtown so he and his group can break their dependence on charity and become selfsufficient.

In Pollock's efforts to convince Gregor that Pollock is not interested in selfaggrandizement, he begins a secret hunger strike and conceives of "The Giving," n computer scheme that reprograms his bank's automatic tellers (appropriately named "KISS N TELLER") to dispense money to the homeless.

But does money solve the problem? That's the question and prickly issue that not only confronts Pollock, portrayed by doe-eyed Kevin Kildow, but also challenged the film's writer-director. Not one to shirk social and political responsibility, Demetrios recruited homeless people to act and work on the film. Nine of the 15 main roles in "The Giving" as well as those of extras, are held by homeless people. Demetrios also employed three homeless film interns who were placed in apartments at the conclusion of production.

Although "The Giving" is visually stunning, unique in its structure, and includes some thought-provoking dialogue, especially in the monologues by Pollock, Gregor, and two homeless women, it fails to give the viewer fully developed characters. Both Pollock and Gregor, portrayed by Lee Hampton, are presented and performed as one dimensional characters. In particular, Demetrios does not provide n history or suitable explanation for his main character's overwhelming guilt and obsession to solve the problem of homelessness.

Nonetheless, "The Giving," which is beautifully photographed in black and white by Antonio Soriano, poses serious questions about philanthropy and con-tains startling images of the undeniable horrors of homelessness and poverty in the United States.



"The Giving's" Director Eames Demetrios with actor Kevin Kildow.

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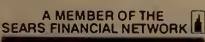
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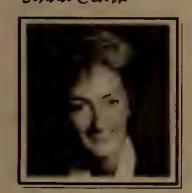
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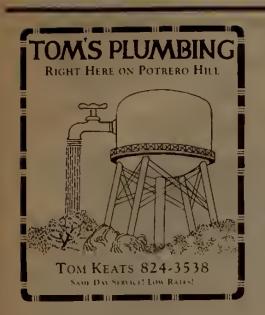
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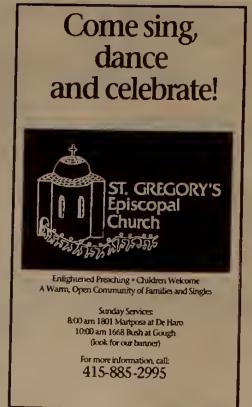
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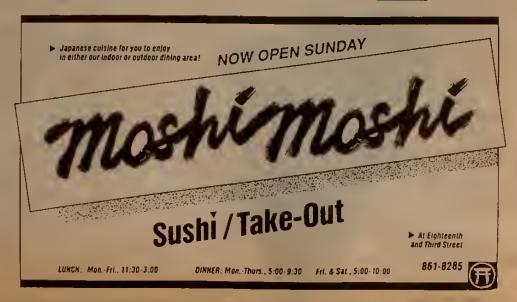
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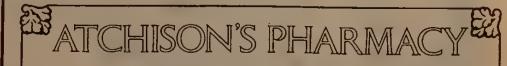
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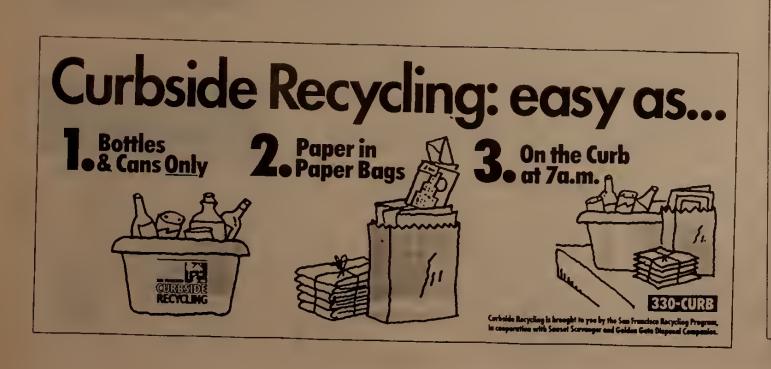




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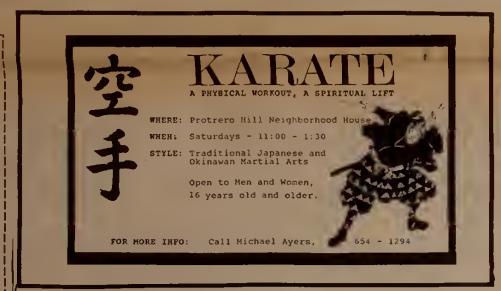
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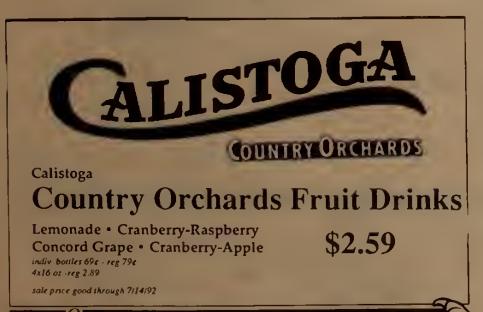
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